

Were he still with us today, I am certain West Virginia Senator Jennings Randolph, who proposed the 26th Amendment to our Constitution to lower the voting age to 18 in 1971, would be very proud of each and every student at Meadow Bridge High School. As your elected representative to Washington, I am especially moved by the faculty's efforts to get young people involved in the political process at a young age. By registering to vote, they have achieved the highest office in our land, that of a citizen.

West Virginians have a long, proud history of serving their country. It brings me great pleasure to be able to recognize the efforts of our youngest new voters as they continue in the grand tradition of their classmates, parents and neighbors who registered to vote before them. These students take great pride in doing their civic duty, and I look forward to having their voices heard at the polls come election season.

Let us take this moment to recognize the truly spectacular achievement they have attained with this milestone.

IN TRIBUTE TO HARRY SCHWARTZ BOOKSHOPS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Milwaukee's landmark bookstore chain, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops. After 82 years of business and service to the entire Greater Milwaukee community, the company will close its doors at the close of business on March 31, 2009.

The chain was founded two years before the Great Depression, in 1927, by Harry W. Schwartz, who opened his first shop on Downer Avenue. Mr. Schwartz soon became known for the books that he chose to sell. He championed then-controversial 20th-century authors such as William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway. His son, David, took over the business in 1972 and under the younger Schwartz's leadership the company added more stores. New stores were placed in neighborhoods where national chains could not build. Books were carefully selected to reflect local customer preferences and coffee and other soft items were offered. The company began mentoring and assisting other small bookstores including the Cultural Connection Bookstore.

Schwartz unleashed his biggest innovation, readings with big-name authors including President Barack Obama, then Senator Obama, with the introduction of his book *The Audacity of Hope*, in 2006. Schwartz Bookshops became known for their great author events throughout the national book industry. Schwartz Bookshops' parent company, Dickens Books Ltd., also began an operation that sells business books, which today is a separate division, 800-CEO-Read. Despite the advent of the big box booksellers, Schwartz prospered in the 1980s and 1990s. After the death of David Schwartz in 2004 his widow, Carol Grossmeyer, took over as president and his daughter, Rebecca Schwartz, became chairman of the company.

Booksellers now have competition not only from the national chains, but also from online

booksellers, digital books, and the economic downturn that affect how people both read and purchase books. Although the Schwartz brick and mortar Bookshops will close, two of the stores will continue operating under new owners. Ms. Grossmeyer and Ms. Schwartz will continue to run Dickens Books Ltd and the 800-CEO-Read Division which remains profitable.

Madam Speaker, my district and Greater Milwaukee will experience a profound loss with the closing of the Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops; I thank them for their immeasurable achievements and salute their legacy.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MICHAEL E. PRICKETT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to a constituent of mine, Mr. Michael Prickett, and his steadfast service to his community.

Mr. Prickett has served as the Fire Chief of the Alexandria Fire Department since 1979. His 39 years of service have helped further strengthen the department as an institution the people of Calhoun County can rely upon to provide safety and peace of mind. On March 14th, Mr. Prickett's family and friends will gather to honor his service during a special retirement dinner.

I am proud to join the members of the Alexandria Fire Department in thanking Mr. Prickett for his service and wish him and his family the best at this important occasion to honor his dedication and leadership.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOOL FOOD RECOVERY ACT OF 2009

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the School Food Recovery Act of 2009. The purpose of this legislation is simple: to keep excess school food out of the garbage and get it into our food banks.

Our Nation's food banks and food pantries are struggling to keep up with demand. On average, client visits are up more than 30 percent over the past year. Families in northern Virginia and all around the Nation are going hungry. Our food banks and food pantries are their last resort.

Consider that for a family earning \$45,000 a year, it costs an extra \$1,000 today to maintain the same food, gas, and basic good purchases compared to 2006—a 9.6% increase. That reality has led some families in my district who had been donating food in the past to now turn to the same pantries for food assistance.

Unfortunately, we are not doing enough to prevent the waste of perfectly good food as these families go hungry. According to a USDA report on waste in the National School Lunch Program, it was reported that an esti-

mated "30 million Americans were in danger of going hungry and 96 billion pounds of food were being wasted at the retail and food services level."

To address this, former Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman awarded twelve \$10,000 grants to school districts during the 1998–1999 school year to develop models to donate unused food to local food banks and food pantries and the results were published in a "best practices" manual in 1999. However, since the conclusion of the one-year grants, little has been done at the Federal level to encourage school districts to donate surplus food to food banks.

In 1993, Congress passed the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act, which protects donors who give to food banks in good faith from all liability. This law has helped encourage many businesses and civic organizations to donate more and to build connections with food agencies.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about our school cafeterias. Far too few school districts have been willing to donate excess food, primarily due to administrative resistance and a misperception that Federal regulation doesn't allow it.

The School Food Recovery Act will clarify—once and for all—that schools are covered from liability under the Good Samaritan Act and will allow each school to authorize an employee who has the discretion to release excess school food to local food banks on a regular basis.

I believe this legislation will cut through the red tape and ensure that excess school food is used to feed the hungry, not to fill a school's dumpster. It only requires schools to identify local food banks and pantries, identify the employee authorized to release food to those agencies, and create a database of these contacts at each school that food banks can use to connect with these individuals.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this straightforward legislation to help feed the hungry.

FREEMAN IS NOT THE MAN FOR THE JOB

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention the following letter I recently sent to President Obama regarding the appointment of former Ambassador Charles W. Freeman to serve as chair of the National Intelligence Council.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
March 6, 2009.

HON. BARACK H. OBAMA,
The President, The White House,
Washington DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I write today to share my deep concern regarding the appointment of Chas W. Freeman Jr. as chairman of the National Intelligence Council.

Particularly disturbing is Mr. Freeman's position on the international advisory board of the China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC), which he has held since March 2004. The communist government of China,